the base of the tail. In the case of the Wattle-bird the dusted areas usually vary from the nape of the neck to the mid back. There is one further variation with the Wattle-bird and perhaps other large honeyeaters. The weight of the Wattle-bird is often sufficient to bear the flower stalk right to the ground and in this situation the probing for nectar is made at varying angles and so the normal pattern of pollen dusting may be upset.

The way in which the Red Wattle-bird has accommodated itself to its changing environment is exemplified by an incident in the Kings Park botanic gardens on Bird Day, October 1965. While 250 children were being addressed on nature conservation and the importance of birds in the cross pollination of certain native plants, a Red Wattle-bird flew down in front of the gathering and worked methodically through a large clump of kangaroo paws oblivious to the exclamations of the audience.

—C. F. H. JENKINS, South Perth.

Gums Used by Aborigines.—The information provided in recent numbers of the *Western Australian Naturalist* (9, 1964: 76; 10, 1967: 117) on the manufacture of spinifex gum by Aborigines has prompted me to report the following, as told to me by Harold Councillor, an Aboriginal.

The coastal natives around Geraldton used gum from the blackboy tree *(Xanthorrhoea)*, in the same fashion as the inland people used gum from the spinifex *(Triodia)*. However, the people between the coast and the spinifex country did not have a ready supply of gum. They did have a substitute, however, which, while not highly regarded, was nevertheless used. This was the gum from the biro bush *(Eremophila fraseri)*, a low bush with dark green leaves covered with a slightly sticky gum. The leaves are placed on a flat rock and another rock placed on the leaves. As the leaves are pressed more are placed on the pile and the rock replaced. Eventually the gum exudes on to the base rock and is collected and melted together.

Blackboy gum was probably the main item of trade between the Geraldton people and those inland. Spears were the main item used as exchange by the inland people, the best spearwood coming from a tree called by the Aborigines "noodinga." This is reputed to grow in a gully three miles south of Jingemarra Station homestead, Yalgoo.

—STAN GRATTE, Wonthella, Geraldton.

The South-eastern Range Limits of the Western Silvereye.—It is rather strange that earlier observers have failed to make any records of the occurrence of the Western Silvereye *(Zosterops gouldi)* along the far south-east coast of Western Australia. In their earlier editions of the *Birds of Western Australia* (1948, 1951) D. L. Serventy and H. M. Whittell were indefinite in fixing the south-eastern limits of the distribution of the species, mentioning only Norseman as their furthest east locality. In their third edition (1962) they extended the eastern limit to Newman's Rocks, and in their fourth (1967) to Eucla.

It will be useful to add some observations of my own in this general area. In January 1966 I saw a flock of about 60 silvereyes in the coastal sand dune scrub 23 miles south of Mundrabilla homestead—these were the green-backed western form *(gouldi)* and a specimen was collected. Mr. I. C. Carnaby informs me that he saw silvereyes in mallee *(Eucalyptus oleosa)* woodland 40 miles west of Eucla in September 1965. As this type of vegetation extends in a narrow coastal belt some distance across the border into South Australia it is likely that the Western Sil-